

DESCRIPTIONS OF THREE NEW SPECIES OF LEPIDOPTERA
RHOPALOCERA IN THE TRANSVAAL MUSEUM.

BY C. J. SWIERSTRA, First Assistant.

In the collection of J. T. Janse, Esq., of Pretoria, I found a *Leptoneura*, unfortunately a single specimen, which is undoubtedly an undescribed species of that genus. Mr. Janse informed me that he caught it on the flat top, which forms a sort of elevated plateau, of the Warmberg, situated some thirty miles to the east-south-east of Pietersburg, in the Zoutpansberg District.

It is rather an interesting fact that where the Transvaal is pretty fairly worked in the line of *Rhopalocera*, a new species of *Leptoneura* has been discovered. Even more so as this new species is a near ally of, and belongs to, the more southern representatives of this genus.

LEPTONEURA JANSEI, *Swierstra*.

Head: Antennae palpi, thorax and abdomen as in *L. oxylus*.

Wings, Upperside: Dull brown with a slight cupreous gloss, posterior parts of wings slightly paler than basal parts, more so towards apex in forewing; a marginal row of five bluish white unipupilated black ocelli in both wings, except the fifth in hind wing, which is unipupilated.

Forewing: An indistinct stripe at the end of upper half of cell, an exteriorly curved, irregular dentated, pale creamy macular post-median transverse stripe, interiorly edged with dark brown, commencing on costal margin at vein 2, extending downward to vein 1, where the spots become very indistinct. The first spot of this stripe, between vein 8 and 11 elongate with the veins crossing it, scaled with brown. The other spots very irregular triangularly shaped. A curved row of five bluish white unipupilated black ocelli in yellowish ochreous rings of which the first is the smallest, somewhat elongated, placed between veins 6 and 7; the second much elongated, larger than first, between veins 5 and 6; third round, about same size as first, between 4 and 5, the fourth round, largest, between 3 and 4, the fifth smaller than fourth, between 2 and 3. Pupils of first and third ocelli largest. A sub-marginal whitish stripe commencing on vein 8, where it unites with the preceding stripe, extending to tornus. A marginal very pale fulvous stripe from apex to tornus separated from sub-marginal one by a dark brown streak and from cillia by a brown edging.

Hindwing: A post-median curved row of five bluish white pupilated black ocelli in pale fulvous rings of which the fifth is minutely bipupilated. The first ocellus between veins 5 and 6, the second between 4 and 5; the third between 3 and 4; the fourth between 2 and 3, and the fifth between 1c and 2. An additional minute ocellus between veins 6 and 7, much in front of the others. A suffused greyish brown sub-marginal stripe from vein 8 to 1c separated from the darker marginal stripe by a dark brown streak.

Underside: Paler with a very slight gloss; markings more strongly devined.

Forewing: In discoidal cell, about middle, two dark brown spots, one above the other; past middle a S-shaped transverse stria; closing end of upper half of cell another dark stria representing the one on upper side. Spots in cell in rings of greyish white, S-shaped and stria closing upper half of cell exteriorly bounded by greyish white scaling. A transverse exteriorly oblique dark brown stria from cell in a line with spots in cell, to near vein 1. All stria representing those of upperside and row of five ocelli more strongly marked.

Hindwing: Three basal spots surrounded by greyish white scaling, the first two in cell, the third between veins 1c and 2; a sub-median and median irregular exteriorly dentated stria from vein 8 to vein 1c, of which the first is exteriorly and the second interiorly bounded with greyish white; a dark brown stria closing cell. Space between last stria and sub-median one filled with greyish white scaling. Row of five ocelli as on upperside, fulvous rings paler, within another dark brown ring. Instead of one as on upper side, two additional larger ocelli, in dark brown rings of which the second represent the upper one. Row of five ocelli interiorly bounded by whitish violaceous scaling.

This *Leptoneura*, although in many respects relative to *Lep. oxylus*, Trim., can at once be distinguished from that species and from all other known *Leptoneura* by it having a row of five ocelli in forewing, instead of from two to three as in the other species. These five ocelli and those in hindwing are also smaller than the representatives in *Lep. oxylus*, Trim.

I have named this specimen in honour of its capturer, who kindly presented it to the Transvaal Museum.

Length of forewing: 31 mm.

Habitat: One female, Warmberg, near Pietersburg, Zoutpansberg District.

LYCAENA JEFFERYI, *Swierstra*.

Head brownish, eyes in pure white rings. Palpi white underneath, blackish above and at tips. Thorax black, covered above with greyish brown and bluish hairs, underneath with greyish white.

Abdomen brown above, greyish white beneath. Legs white.

Wings: Upperside olive brown, with a strong violaceous gloss, with dark brown marginal edgings.

Forewing: With an indistinct narrow streak closing cell. Violaceous covers entire wing.

Hindwing: With a hindmarginal black spot between veins 2 and 3. Cellular mark linear indistinct. Violaceous covers greater part of wing, leaving an apical patch and an innermarginal border of ground colour.

Cilia: Brownish at base, whitish outwardly. No tail.

Underside: Grey with the ordinary marking slightly darker than ground colour, whitish edged.

Forewing: Spot closing cell broader than on upperside, post-median series of chainlike spots as in *skotios*, Druce, with their white edging less distinct. Two sub-marginal rows of very indistinct whitish sagittiform lunules and a linear brownish hindmarginal edging.

Hindwing : Five black, whitish ringed spots before middle, two of which are situated along inner margin, one in cell and the other two along analmargin. Large lunular marking closing cell as in forewing. A postmedian row of six chainlike spots, slightly darker than ground colour, edged with whitish. First spot before second ; second, third and fourth forming an inwardly oblique row ; fifth before fourth and sixth in a straight line underneath the fifth. Two sub-marginal indistinct rows of whitish sagittiform lunules of which the outer row together with a very indistinct marginal row of similar lunules, forms imperfect rings. Black hindmarginal spots exteriorly bounded by greenish metallic scaling, interiorly by a thin indistinct orange line. Besides this spot there is a trace of a similar smaller spot at analangle covered with some greenish metallic scaling.

Cilia greyish at base, whitish outwardly.

This *Lycaena* was discovered by Mr. G. W. Jeffery at Ulundi, near Barberton, after whom I have much pleasure in naming the species. Its nearest ally is *Lycaena* (Catochrysops) *skotios*, Druce, but distinguished on upperside by its violaceous gloss, its whitish cilia and by the underside being greyish instead of olivaceous brown, with the markings and their edging less distinct, the black spots also being smaller than those reproduced in the figure of *Lycaena skotios*. The sagittiform lunules, which are in the same figure of *L. skotios* very distinct are hardly visible in *L. Jefferyi*, and this species also lacks the pale marginal line in both wings which is replaced by a brownish linear edging. The black hindmarginal spot, which is described in *L. skotios*, Druce, as "broadly covered and partially surrounded by rich orange" is in *L. Jefferyi* only a mere indistinct orange edging.

Length of forewing : 19 mm.

Habitat : Ulundi, near Barberton, 21st October, 1906. (Jeffery.)

PHASIS DENTATIS, *Swierstra*.

Upperside : Orange yellow, with blackish brown borders.

Forewing : Base lighter than disc, dusted with some blackish scaling.

Black border commencing on costa past middle, widest at apex, abruptly narrowed on vein 4 and then continued evenly along hind margin to vein 1.

Hindwing : Border commencing on costa past middle, forming an equal patch above vein 4, where it narrows and continues as a interiorly deeply dentated hindmarginal streak to analangle, where it becomes a thin edging.

Cilia brownish.

Underside : Hindwing, apical and hindmarginal border of forewing purplish-lake with the usual spots in forewing, and spots and sharply dentated stripes in hindwing.

Forewing : Orange yellow about same colour as on upperside, becoming lighter towards innermargin. Three black, silvery-white centred spots in cell, the one closing cell has got the white centre T-shaped, which might be individual. A post-median row of five black, internally whitish edged spots of which the second is nearest base and so

situated as to form an angle with the first, nearest costa, and third spot; fourth and fifth in a straight line, one underneath the other. A sub-marginal row of seven similar but slightly larger spots with the white edging less distinct. An indistinct marginal row of eight blackish spots externally edged with white dots. A suffused basal and a sub-basal black spot just below cell.

Hindwing: One minute whitish spot at base in cell. A sub-basal curved row of four whitish dark edged spots. A sub-median row of three similar spots of which the middle one closes cell. A curved median whitish, externally dark edged, strongly dentated stripe and the sub-marginal indistinct row of forewing represented by minute elongate white spots between the veins.

Cilia greyish brown, mixed with some whitish between veins.

Allied to *Ph. thyra* (Linn.) but easily distinguished from that species through its smaller hindmarginal border, and the larger apical patch of forewing. In the hindwing the hindmarginal border is represented by a deeply dentated streak, the apical patch is larger and not extending beyond the spot which close cell as is the case in *Ph. thyra*, also sufficiently distinguish *Ph. dentatus* from that species.

Length of forewing: $15\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

One female from Waterval Onder (Dr. Breyer) in the Transvaal Museum.
